

I. AMENDMENTS

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 8, 9 and 10 as shown in the listing of claims below.

Please cancel claims 2 and 7.

Listing of Claims:

Please replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the present application with the following:

1. (currently amended) A method for tracking and disposition of articles of merchandise in a retail store, comprising the steps of:
 - a) coding at least one RFID tag with a unique select identifier corresponding to a type of merchandise, the identifier being electronically stored in a memory portion of the RFID tag;
 - b) affixing at least one RFID tag to at least one article of merchandise corresponding to a select type;
 - c) writing a status code to a select affixed RFID tag to indicate that the merchandise is unsold;
 - d) electrically scanning a select RFID tag to obtain the select identifier at a point of sale;
 - e) communicating the select identifier to an inventory record of ~~a point of distribution~~ the store and incrementing an inventory quantity of the ~~point of distribution~~ store;
 - f) electrically scanning the article of merchandise when it is ~~scheduled to be removed from the point of distribution~~ presented at the point of sale to obtain the select identifier from the RFID tag; ~~and~~

- g) writing a change in the status code to the select RFID tag to indicate that the merchandise has been sold; and
- h) removing the select identifier from the inventory record and updating the inventory record at the point of distribution store to reflect the removal sale of the article of merchandise.

2. (canceled) The method of claim 1 wherein the point of distribution is a retail store.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
- a) providing at least one customer with an account;
 - b) providing the customer with a card to enable the customer to charge purchases against the account, the card further comprising an RFID tag having customer-specific information;
 - c) electrically scanning the customer's merchandise selections at a check-out point of the store to obtain merchandise-specific information;
 - d) electrically scanning the customer's card to obtain the customer's account information;
 - e) obtaining personal identification information from the customer for verifying the customer's identity;
 - f) upon verification of the customer's identity, providing the customer with the option of at least one of charging the selections to the customer's account, writing a check, and paying cash; and
 - g) maintaining a record of customer-specific purchases.

4. (original) A method for selling articles in a retail store, comprising the steps of:
- a) providing at least one customer with an account;
 - b) providing the customer with a card to enable the customer to charge purchases against the account, the card further comprising an RFID tag having customer-specific information;

- c) electrically scanning the customer when the customer is in proximity to a display to obtain the customer's identity and account information from the RFID tag; and
- d) providing a customer-specific message to the customer via the display.

5. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the customer-specific message is a personalized greeting.

6. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the customer-specific message is an advertisement corresponding to the customer's past purchasing preferences.

7. (canceled) A method for tracking and disposition of articles, comprising the steps of:

- a) coding at least one RFID tag with a unique identifier, the identifier being electronically stored in a memory portion of the RFID tag;
- b) affixing at least one RFID tag to at least one article of merchandise;
- c) writing to a select RFID tag to set a status code indicating that the merchandise is unsold;
- d) electrically scanning the select RFID tag to obtain the select identifier;
- e) communicating the select identifier to an inventory record of a store and incrementing an inventory quantity of the store;
- f) electrically scanning the article of merchandise when it is sold to obtain the select identifier from the RFID tag;
- g) writing to the select RFID tag to change the status code to indicate that the merchandise has been sold; and
- h) removing the select identifier from the inventory record and decrementing the inventory quantity.

8. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 7 1, further comprising the steps of:

- a) scanning a select RFID tag placed in proximity to an entry and/or exit point of the store to obtain the identifier information for the select RFID tag;
 - b) comparing the identifier information of the select RFID tag to the inventory record; and
 - c) generating a perceivable alert signal if the select RFID tag is listed in the inventory record.
9. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 7~~1~~, further comprising the steps of:
- a) scanning a select RFID tag placed in proximity to an entry and/or exit point of the store to obtain the status code information for the select RFID tag; and
 - b) generating a perceivable alert signal if the status code indicates that the merchandise affixed to the select RFID tag is unsold.
10. (currently amended) A method for tracking and disposition of articles of merchandise in a retail store, comprising the steps of:
- a) maintaining a record of the identifiers of RFID tags corresponding to unsold merchandise no longer in ~~a the~~ store's inventory record;
 - b) electrically scanning the entrances and/or exits to the store for the identifiers of all RFID tags in proximity to the entrances and/or exits;
 - c) when a select RFID tag is detected, electrically scanning the RFID tag to obtain the identifier of the tag;
 - d) comparing the identifier of the each of the RFID tags to the store's record of unsold merchandise; and
 - e) generating an perceivable alert signal if the comparison of any of the identifiers of RFID tags match those of unsold merchandise.